

Amendments to the Claims:

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Claims 1-14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (previously amended): A method for increasing the sugar content of beets, said method comprising administration of copper salts of caprylic amino acids to beet crops in an amount effective to increase the sugar content of said beets.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A method for increasing the sugar content of grapes, said method comprising administration of copper salts of caprylic amino acids to grape crops in an amount effective to increase the sugar content of said grapes.

Claim 17 (previously amended): A method of treating potatoes to increase crop yield by administering to a potato crop, at the end of the tuberisation phase, two doses of 50 g. each per hectare of copper salts of butyric-amino acids.

Claim 18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (previously added): A method of protecting crops against animals by administering 3 to 5 g. of zinc salts of butyric-amino acids per 100-150 kg. of crops.

*Added*

Claim 20 (previously added): A method of treating potatoes to increase crop yield by administering to a potato crop, at the end of the tuberisation phase, at least one dose of copper salts of butyric-amino acids in an amount effective to increase the crop yield of said potato crop.

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